

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to www.zs6mrk.org and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. www.sarl.org.za. You can read or download previous bulletins from there and subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relay on 3 695 kHz. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

SILENT KEY

The SARL regrets to announce the passing away of Empty Wessels, ZS6KD, on Monday 23 October. Empty was 92. Our condolences go to his relatives and many friends.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

RAE RESULTS ANNOUNCED

JUST LICENSED AND NO RIG YET? GET ON THE AIR WITH ECHOLINK
DO HAVE EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD BE OF VALUE TO GROW AMATEUR RADIO IN SOUTH AFRICA?

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

RAE RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The Radio Amateur Examination results have been announced and are available on www.sarl.org.za. Of the 121 candidates who wrote the class A examination 65 passed which is a pass rate of 54%. The class B examination candidates fared better with a pass rate of 88%. 34 Candidates wrote the class B examination.

The top score in the class A examination was achieved by D L Roux of Durbanville, obtaining an average of 91%. Three candidates share the top score position in the class B examination. They are S D W du Plessis from Pretoria, A W Robertson from Hout Bay and F J van Eeden of Paarl. All 3 candidates obtained 100%.

In common with the past few examinations, it appears that many candidates do not spend enough time preparing for the regulation portion of the paper.

Congratulations to all who passed. If you did not make it, keep up the spirit and try again in May 2007.

Result letters will be mailed as soon as possible. Please note that results will not be supplied telephonically but are available on www.sarl.org.za. Candidates who have not submitted license applications and HF operating certificates are urged to supply the correct documentation to the SARL Head Office as soon as possible for processing. Note that the SARL head office is closed till 5 November and that no call sign applications will be processed till after that date.

Candidates who have complied with the requirements to submit license applications and HF operating certificates with their exam registration may immediately go on the air. All processed applications are shown on the web with the allocated call signs.

JUST LICENSED AND NO RIG YET? GET ON THE AIR WITH ECHOLINK

Talk for free!

So you have just received your new ZU, or ZR or ZS call sign and you can't wait to make amateur radio contacts. You can't, because you have no equipment as yet. Echolink can end your frustration within a few minutes. After reading the article on www.sarl.org.za you could be accessing any of the 2000 repeaters linked to the system and work some DX.

For licensed amateurs, EchoLink® software opens up new possibilities for communicating around the world with other amateurs. Your PC links you to any of thousands of other stations over the Internet. There are more than 170 000 registered users in 158 nations worldwide!

As a newcomer to amateur radio all you need is a PC, a microphone, speakers and an Internet connection. A dial-up will work but a broadband connection will deliver better quality.

Visit www.sarl.org.za for full details. Although Echolink is partly an Internet connection, the full HF operating procedures apply. So brush up on procedure before you get on the air direct or via Echolink.

DO HAVE EXPERIENCE THAT WOULD BE OF VALUE TO GROW AMATEUR RADIO IN SOUTH AFRICA?

Did you think we were joking in last weeks bulletin? We are very serious and repeat our request. If you have experience that will help us to grow amateur radio in South Africa, then the South African Radio League would like to hear from you. 15 Nominations are required for the new council, which will be elected at the AGM on 14 April 2007. While most of the existing Council members will be available for re-election, there are still many open spaces to be filled.

Nominations for Council close at the end of November. Wolfy Matz, some years ago wrote a regular tongue in cheek comment in Radio ZS. One of them was entitled "Why don't they?" Funny but true! If you have what it takes to grow amateur radio in our country, we invite you to offer your services. Ask a fellow amateur to nominate you or send an Email to Henry Chamberlain, the SARL

Secretary, with the details of what you believe you can do for amateur radio. His email address is secretary@sarl.org.za.

After last week's SARL News item Henry expected at least one email. So now that you have had a week to think about it, surprise him. We need your support.

HAMNET WESTERN CAPE EXERCISE

HAMNET Western Cape is exercising with Wilderness Search and Rescue (WSAR) this weekend on the farm Waaihoek in the Worcester area. The farm belongs to one of members, Christie van , ZR1CVZ, who offered WSAR the right to exercise on his farm due to the high mountains and cliffs. This exercise should pose as a real communications challenge as we don't have line-of-sight with the search teams. Numerous mobile relay stations will be posted at vantage points, thus allowing us to test and exercise our own operators in the art of message handling and voice procedures. A group of some 20 HAMNET members have committed themselves to the exercise.

HAMNET Western Cape is a signatory to WSAR, playing a very important role in providing specialised radio communications in the Western Cape.

ZS6PTA FLEA MARKET

The Pretoria amateur radio club will hold its summer flea market on Saturday 11 November 2006. The flea market is at the usual place at the South-Campus of the University of Pretoria, at the corner of Lynwood and University streets. The starting time is 08:00.

Everyone is welcome. Phone Almero, ZR6LDP, on (H)(012) 567 3722 or 082 908 3359 if you want to book a table or if you need directions to the flea market.

LOOK OUT FOR RADIO EQUIPMENT LOST WITH HIJACKED CAR

All radio amateurs are kindly requested to be on the lookout for two green Racal TR15 transceivers, a brown 30 A power supply and a TR48 whip antenna complete with gooseneck which were in the boot of a BMW 325 hijacked from Tony Lee, ZS6TFB/A22TL. Information can be phoned to Tony at 09267 393 2686 or 09267 7130 1994 or emailed to Alee@debswana.bw.

HF PROPAGATION CONDITIONS Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that solar activity is expected to be at very low levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to unsettled levels. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 5.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of 20 m openings towards the East from about 06:00 CAT. From about 16:00, 15 and 20 m may open towards Europe. From 18:00, 15 and 80 m may open to the USA.

For the CW and digital enthusiasts it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Tomorrow: 30 October - Closing date for submission of offers to host the SARL 2007 AGM; 4 November - Division 6 Band Planning Committee meeting at the NARC; 30 November - Closing date for submission of nominations for Council Members, SARL awards and motions for next year's AGM; 11 November - ZS6PTA Flea market.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on www.zs6mrk.org and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

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